

Governance Council Minutes
Verona Area International School
VAIS-LMC
Monday, May 8, 2023

Attendance

Sally Parks, Grace Flores, Charles James, James Kokalj

Virtually: Joanne Mueller, Kelly Gibson, Brandon Braithwaite, Sarah Shaw, Teresa Mueller

Also attending: Katie Bhandare (virtually), Jennifer Tzeng (virtually)

Absent: Steve Kean, Evan Henderson, Patty Immanuella

Meeting called to order at 6:39 p.m.

Approval of April minutes. Charles moved to approve the minutes, Joanne seconded. Motion carries- minutes are approved.

Director's report

See director's report

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UAg98oTJWEYeJwaV4EIB7X06SRtQ0HNlczSMXzgmy/edit?usp=sharing>

We discussed some of the staffing changes that have taken place, including some additions in the special education area.

We will have a reading corps tutor for this coming school year. This is part of Americorps. These tutors have been a huge help to other students in the district with great results. The focus will be on students who don't qualify for support or intervention, but may benefit from extra help with reading. This is paid for by Americorps.

We learned about the *Moving to Biliteracy: Dual Language Program Development* seminar that was attended by several staff members. It was helpful from a K-5 perspective how to improve the structure of our immersion program to accelerate Mandarin achievement.

Discussion of some possible additional Mandarin curriculum resources.

The Center for Biliteracy is doing a seminar on August 15-17. This is educational developmental opportunities for ALL of our teachers to learn about bridging techniques and ways to collaborate with one another in teaching in an immersion environment.

Cost per Teacher: \$1,316

5 Teachers=\$6580

6 Teachers= \$7896

6 Teachers & 1 Administrator= \$9212

We do have funds to cover this cost. Sally also proposed using some of our carryover funds in the district account. We haven't used all of these funds in prior years, and it's enough to cover a large portion of the cost.

Joanne moved to approve up to 6 teachers and 1 administrator, based on attendance availability, for a total cost of \$9212, which will come primarily from carryover district funds from prior years, and any remaining funds to come from the AWE account. Charles seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Enrollment update: no changes.

Fundraising

- End of year picnic will take place this Thursday, May 11th, 5-7 at McKee Farms Park
- There will be face-painting, DJ, yard games, etc.
- BYO dinner.
- There will be a brat stand at WBC on the last day of school. Kelsey is coordinating this event.
- They are looking at a fundraising event at Kismet over the summer.
- There will be another round of spirit wear available this spring/summer.
- Ice cream shop fundraiser is May 23rd.

Outreach

- They are working on the story time event at June 11th at Kismet book
- Hometown days parade is June 4th

Parent Engagement Committee

National Library Week went well with guest readers coming into the classroom.

The volunteer appreciation event at the community gathering was a success.

Teacher appreciation week is this week with parents supplying snacks for the lounge, a catered lunch, and an amazon wish list.

They will be working on the storytime at Kismet book.

They will be scheduling summer playdates- one per month during the summer.

Mentorship program will take place again this year.

Popsicles on the playground event will be planned for August. May be August 14th which is the day of the GC meeting.

Kindergarten orientation will take place May 18th. James will get committee description to Jen. Kelly will get tote bags to Jen for the night.

Budget

- Evan has a proposed budget put together.

- GC discussion of the fact that we are short on the budget and may need to increase the fundraising requirement. This will be difficult bc we have not yet hit our goal for this year.
- Discussion of maybe allocating funds to purchase spirit wear for staff.

Other business:

GC elections will take place this month. Grace will coordinate.

Teresa had an update on the China trip. She is still working on logistics. More updates to come!

Sarah Shaw motioned to adjourn at 8:42. Meeting adjourned.